

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended, and claims 9-11 are added, to recite additional features. See the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0014], [0015], [0023], [0047]-[0049] and [0055]-[0058]. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,569,060 to Mori; rejects claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mori alone; and rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,595,525 to Hayashi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 4 are amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite "wherein in the traverse grinding step, the grinding wheel moves only in a direction toward the plunge ground portion while traverse-grinding the workpiece to a final shape." Claim 4 is amended to recite "wherein in the traverse grinding steps, the grinding wheel only moves toward the middle portion while traverse-grinding the workpiece to a final shape." Mori and Hayashi do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 4, as amended.

Mori discloses a method in which the processing of an article includes the steps of processing one end Ga of the article to the middle portion Gb of the article, and a step of processing from the other end Gd to a middle portion Gc of the article. See Fig. 8 and col. 15, line 28-col. 16, line 2 of Mori. Hayashi discloses a method in which plunge and traverse grinding steps may be selected and/or combined for processing an article. See Fig. 2c and col. 4, lines 12-19 of Hayashi. Mori and Hayashi do not disclose or suggest "wherein in the traverse grinding step, the grinding wheel moves only in a direction toward the plunge ground portion while traverse-grinding the workpiece to a final shape," as recited in claim 1; or

"wherein in the traverse grinding steps, the grinding wheel only moves toward the middle portion while traverse-grinding the workpiece to a final shape," as recited in claim 4.

Claims 2, 3 and 5-8 are also patentable over Mori and Hayashi at least for the patentability of claims 1 and 4, from which they respectively depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

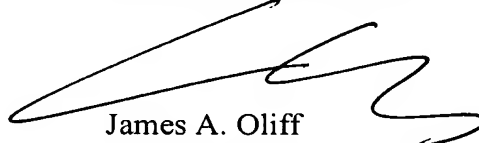
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

New dependent claims 9-11 are believed to be patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1 and 4, from which they respectively depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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